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5/10/04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Yoshinori Uchiyama

Serial No.: 09/893,598 ✓

Group Art Unit: 2675

Filed: June 29, 2001

Examiner: Bell, Paul A.

For: SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUIT IN WHICH POWER CONSUMPTION IS REDUCED
AND SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUIT SYSTEM USING THE SAME

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

MAY 06 2004

Technology Center 2600

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Sir:

In response to the requirement in 37 C.F.R. §1.2, 37 C.F.R. §1.133, and MPEP §713.04, that Applicants provide a statement of the substance of an interview, Applicants hereby submit the following summary.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge Examiner Bell for taking time from his busy schedule to conduct a personal interview on April 28, 2004, for the above-referenced Application. The interview was courteous and professional, and it is believed by Applicants' representative that prosecution has been advanced because of this interview.

Concerning the substance of the interview, Applicants' representative presented a summary of the present invention as described, for example, by claim 1 to include a feature that, in contrast to the conventional circuits shown in Figure 2 (and in Takuma), in which an input signal is connected the input ports of all n circuit sections, the input signal in the present invention is connected to only k of the circuit sections, where $k < n$.

The advantage of this feature of the present invention is that power consumption can be reduced and components can be sized smaller, since some components can be designed to drive only one or two transistors in the present invention, rather than n components.

The Examiner expressed a concern that he considered that the claim language for claim 1 required that a negative limitation be read into the claim, in order to differentiate from Takuma. That is, the Examiner felt that Takuma also has the input connected to k of the n circuit sections (e.g., in addition to the remainder of $n-k$ circuit sections). The Examiner also indicated that claim 11 was still a problem and requested that the Applicant's Interview Summary include a listing that corresponds to the language of the claim.

In response, as conveyed to the Examiner by telephone on May 4, 2004, the language of claim 1 would differentiate from Takuma, even if not modified, because of the final limitation of claim 1.

More specifically, a second feature of the present invention is that, unlike the configuration of Takuma in which the output is simply connected to the next circuit section in sequence, in the present invention, the output of an m^{th} circuit section is not connected to be an input into the next (e.g., $m+1^{\text{th}}$) circuit section. Rather, in the present invention, the output of the m^{th} circuit is connected to be the input into the $m+k^{\text{th}}$, where $k > 1$ (e.g., in Takuma, $k = 1$).

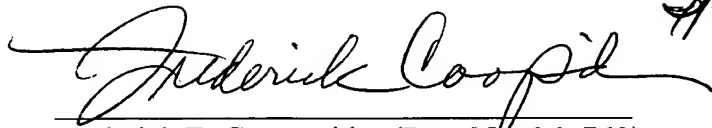
Applicant submits that this difference alone distinguishes the present invention from Takuma so that no modification is required to claim 1.

Relative to claim 11, Applicant agrees that there is an antecedent basis problem and expects to file a Supplemental Amendment shortly to address this problem and to identify

Serial No. 09/893,598
Docket No. 01USFP644-PK
Interview Summary

3

correspondence between claim language and figure labels, as requested by the Examiner during the interview.

 5/5/04
Frederick E. Cooperrider (Reg. No. 36, 769)